

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-06

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AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, SO, UR

SUBJECT: SOMALI ARMY CELEBRATES FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

1. SOMALIA RMY'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTED BY APPEAR-
ANCE PRESIDENT SIAD AT APRIL 11 BANQUET HOSTED BY SRC VICE PRESIDENT/
DEFENSE SECRETARY/ARMY COMMANDANT SAMATAR. OTHER TWO SRC VP'S,
UNIDENTIFIED SRC MEMBERS AND STATE SECRETARIES ALONG WITH
QTEHIMBASSADORS OF ARAB AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES UNQTE, ALSO
PRESENT. NO RPT NO WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES NOTED IN ATTENDANCE.
US NOT RPT NOT INVITED.

2. SAMATAR'S MESSAGE TO ARMY MEN PRAISED PAST YEARS' "VICTORIES"
AND PRESENT ACTIVITIES IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND
RELIEF WORK. SAMATAR WENT ON TO BLAST "WESTERN PROPAGANDA" WHICH,
HE SAID, WAS DESIGNED TO CREATE TENSION BETWEEN SDR AND NEIGHBORS.
SOMALIA WOULD NOT BE "DRAGGED INTO UNNECESSARY WAR" BY "IMPERIALIST
PROVOCATIONS" BECUASE, WHILE THE ARMY IS "TOUGH AND COURAGEOUS",
IT IS "IN PRINCIPLE OPPOSED TO LAUNCHING A WAR OF AGRESSION
AGAINST A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY." SAMATAR ALSO NOTED IMPOSSIBILITY

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THAT "SOMALIA AND OTHER PROGRESSIVEAND PEACE LOVING COUNTRIES COULD

BE INFLUENCED BY CHEAP WESTERN PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS".

3. COMMENT: SAMATAR'S VENOM PROBABLY DIRECTED AT RECENT U.S.
NEWS REPORTS AND BBC BROADCASTS HIGHLIGHTING INTER ALIA SOVIET
ROLE IN SOMALIA AND NEW SOVIET WEAPONS AT BERBERA.
HAMRICK

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